

The National Conservation Lands: Benefiting the People and the Land ...A campaign for the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument

Coast Dairies and the Proposed Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument

Known as the Coast Dairies property, 5,800 acres of coastal redwoods and grasslands were recently donated by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Coast Dairies, located north of Wilder Ranch State Park and south of California Polytechnic State University's Swanton Pacific Ranch, is the focus of a campaign to designate this unique and beautiful property as a National Monument. The property includes six watersheds, critical to the health of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, ancient redwoods and a diverse variety of plants and animals. It also offers a series of dramatic overlooks and vistas of the Pacific Ocean.

BLM's Coast Dairies property is located on the inland side of Highway 1. The property on the coast-side of Highway 1 is owned and operated by California State Parks. The proposed Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument creates a perfect stewardship partnership between the community, the federal government and California State Parks.

What is a National Monument or National Conservation Area?

The country's **National Conservation Lands** are properties managed for conservation and include 28 million acres of land and waterways mostly around the Western United States such as National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, historic trails, and other special designated places. National Conservation Lands are the nation's newest network of protected lands and stand alongside the National Parks, National Forests, and National Wildlife Refuges.

National Monuments and National Conservation Areas are permanent designations for public land that can be established either by Congress, or in the case of National Monuments, directly by the President via the Antiquities Act of 1906. First used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, sixteen U.S. presidents of both parties have used the Antiquities Act to better protect America's public lands and waters. Many iconic sites – including the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Muir Woods and Giant Sequoia National Monument – were first protected by presidents using the Antiquities Act.

National monument designation highlights an area's unique natural, historic and cultural heritage and provides protections from future oil and gas leasing claims, commercial development, and over-use. National monuments can be managed by one of several federal agencies: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Bureau of Land Management. The federal agency that manages the National Monument develops a resource management and public access plan with local input. Before TPL donated the Coast Dairies property to the BLM, TPL prepared a management plan, including an extensive environmental survey. If Coast Dairies is designated a National Monument, the existing management plan will become the basis for BLM to develop a final National Monument Management Plan in collaboration with the public and other local agencies.

Providing Better Protection through National Monument Designation

When accepting the Coast Dairies property from TPL, the BLM also adopted the strong protections included in the property deed. These protections (e.g., the property must remain open space, off-road vehicle activities are prohibited, etc.) are strengthened by Santa Cruz County development restrictions and conservation overlays. And as TPL retained mineral and water rights on the property, oil and gas exploration activities are also prohibited. However, the only way to bring absolute protection of the property's resources and to ensure that it is permanently accessible to the public is via a National Monument or National Conservation Area designation—providing protections that cannot be changed by future administrations or Congressional action.

The proposed National Monument designation WILL:

- Protect in perpetuity more than 5,800 acres of open space, historic and cultural resources, and important habitat for fish and wildlife on the Santa Cruz County coast;
- Permanently protect and improve management of the waters on the Coast Dairies property, which are critical to providing drinking water to the city of Santa Cruz;
- Allow for hiking, mountain biking, and other established recreational activities;

- Improve visitor services for local residents and visitors;
- Allow for additional fire-fighting resources from the federal government;
- Provide modest sums (from the federal budget) for interpretative signage, on-site parking, and stewardship activities.

The proposed National Monument designation WILL NOT:

- Increase local taxes or fees;
- Impact private, state, or local property within the boundaries of or adjacent to a national monument; Create new water rights or affect existing water rights.

The Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign

A coalition of local land trusts, including Sempervirens Fund, The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League, and Peninsula Open Space Trust, are organizing the campaign, along with a Citizens Advisory Committee. The coalition decided to name the campaign to honor the coast redwoods which have long served as a rallying symbol of conservation and smart land use throughout Santa Cruz County.

The Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign is focused on generating public support to convince President Obama and the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Coast Dairies property as a National Monument. Other National Monument campaigns are underway across the country vying for the President's attention and support. We want to show the President that Santa Cruz wants to save our local redwood forests, grazing lands, clean waters, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities.

Throughout this campaign, gatherings and community-wide meetings will be held to explore the National Monument process, local benefits, and to hear input and ideas from local citizens. In addition, residents in Santa Cruz County and throughout the region are currently working to establish a "Friends" group. Most BLM protected areas have local Friends groups that work to provide on-site education, stewardship support, advocacy, fundraising, and communications activities to support the goals of the national monument or conservation area. These organizations exist mostly in the Western U.S. and work with the Conservation Lands Foundation to ensure they have the support needed to be effective.

Kids and Conservation

This Monument will belong to our kids and future generations more than it will be ours. We want kids, their friends and families to add their names to the list of Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument supporters too. Their names will be sent to the White House along with others as the President considers naming Coast Dairies lands to our cherished and protected National Monuments. In the years and decades to come, we want our kids to feel that their act in support of this Monument had something to do with its establishment- ask your children to add their names to those who President Obama will review as he considers Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument.

Join Us!

The campaign needs individuals and families, businesses, organizations, and citizen groups to pledge their support for National Monument designation. The campaign does not require fundraising support - **WE JUST NEED YOU!** to lend your name to the campaign. And if you are ready to be more actively involved, join the Friends of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument. If the President acts, the 'Friends' Committee will form the core of additional local support and resources for ongoing advocacy and stewardship. Together, we can make the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument a reality for today and for future generations to enjoy.

For more information:

www.santacruzredwoods.org
www.conservationlands.org



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